

USACE FINANCE CENTER
BIWEEKLY REPORT
PERIOD ENDING 20 AUGUST 1999

CEFMS:

CEFMS ISSUES:

a. We completed the second session of the budget and manpower training/orientation on 12 August. We provided training for approximately 126 Corps employees representing more than 50 FOAs in these two sessions. Each session included two days dedicated to budget and one day to manpower.

The vast majority of the attendees expressed their gratitude and felt that the training/orientation was very beneficial. There were two major concerns from each session. The first was that the issues raised during the training/orientation sessions would go unanswered. The second was that the Operating Budget and Manpower Mini-STRAP results would be programmed without MSC review/input. Everyone felt that the Mini-STRAP results, along with the issues raised during both training/orientation sessions, should be prioritized and forwarded to the MSC's and HQUSACE for comment before programming begins. All of the issues raised during both training/orientation sessions were recorded and will be forwarded under separate cover to the appropriate officials for action.

b. Other CEFMS Issues and Actions.

(1) We have completed analysis of the latest edition of the Standard General Ledgers received from Treasury. We have devised a tentative plan for conversion/implementation when we receive the final version.

(2) We are on schedule with development of the automated MIPR process for transfer of funds electronically between USACE locations. Initial testing of the functionality will be performed the week of 23-27 August with fielding scheduled for 15 September 1999.

(3) We released the Civil Works Cost Sharing proportionate share functionality to all production sites.

(4) We deployed Phase I of the Online Payment and Collection (OPAC) functionality at UFC the week of 9 Aug 99. This portion allows users to designate government order obligations as having a Trading Partnership Agreement, which is an agreement

between two agencies for payment and collection of reimbursable order billings through Treasury's OPAC System. No Treasury Check will be required for these types of government order obligations. Phase II will involve modifying the CEFMS Billing Program to generate a file to be used as direct input to the OPAC System.

(5) A Y2K external evaluation for CEFMS/REMIS end to end test will take place next week. Representatives from REMIS (SAD) will be in Huntsville next week to process transactions through the system. A CEFMS representative along with 2 employees of the contract staff for the external evaluation will be at WES to monitor and support the test.

PROBLEM REPORTS/IMBALANCES:

a. The open problem report inventory is 879 versus 893 on the last report. The inventory includes 127 Priority #1 problem reports. The open inventory also includes 4 problem reports related to the CEFMS Modernization/GUI work management effort.

b. Forty (40) of the sixty-three databases have no imbalances, seven (7) have one, six (6) have two, four (4) have three, two (2) have four, one (1) has five, and two sites (2) have eight. Only one site has more than ten imbalances. The grand total of database imbalances across the system is ninety (90) versus sixty-five (65) on the last report.

ACCOUNTING OPERATIONS:

CONSOLIDATION OF OPERATING FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING FUNCTIONS:

UPCOMING CONSOLIDATIONS:

----CURRENT SCHEDULE COMPLETE----

NUMBER AND LOCATION OF ON BOARD PERSONNEL:

LOCATION:	NUMBER:
Huntsville	28
Millington	279
Washington	2
Other	1
DA Interns (Millington)	3
Total	313

DISBURSING WORKLOAD DATA:

PAYMENTS	As of 06/30/99	Current Month	Year to Date
----------	----------------	---------------	--------------

BY CHECK:

Checks Issued	254,988	6,519	261,507
Percent of Total	71%	59%	70%
Dollar Amount	\$3,728,799,257	\$191,332,693	\$3,920,131,950

BY EFT:

Transfers Made	105,459	12,036	117,495
Percent of Total	29%	41%	30%
Dollar Amount	\$2,568,244,756	\$279,057,262	\$2,847,302,018

OTHER UFC ISSUES:

a. The Army Audit Agency (AAA) provided an entrance briefing on Military Appropriations CFO statements on 10 August 1999. This entrance briefing was attended by UFC personnel, four representatives from Army Audit, one representative from GAO and one DODIG representative. Following opening comments by the UFC Director, Mr. Ralph Burgess (Audit Manager, AAA) presented the background for, and objectives of, the audit.

The review of USACE transactions is part of the larger FY 99 Army General Funds Audit. Other sites participating in the audit include the DFAS-IN Center, and four DFAS OPLOC's (Rock Island, St. Louis, Rome, and Orlando). These sites were selected because of the large dollar value of funds obligated. USAAA has identified a sample size of approximately 468 transactions, 81 of which are U.S. Army Corps of Engineers transactions.

Army Audit's primary emphasis for the USACE portion of the audit will be on the adequacy of internal controls related to the preparation of the military Statement of Budgetary Resources (accounting, processing, and reporting of budgetary authority, obligations and outlays) and transactions effecting the Fund Balance With Treasury (monthly collection and disbursement activity).

There will be as many as five auditors at the UFC during portions of the audit. An overall draft report is scheduled to be released in November, 1999. On site audits should be completed prior to that date. The final overall report is expected to be released in January 2000. In addition to the overall report, each participating site will be issued a memorandum specifically addressing results of the audit work performed at that location.

b. Mr. John Kelly, General Accounting Office, will be in the UFC on Monday and Tuesday, 23 and 24 August, to discuss the data previously provided to GAO. We provided the FY 98 and FY 99

3011a data for four districts on August 12, 1999. We also provided General Ledger data for the same four districts on that date. On Friday 13 August we provided detailed cost data in support of the General Ledger data. Now Mr. Kelly is stating that he needs the data at a much lower level of detail to be able to prepare for the upcoming meeting with the DCG. We are going to invest the two days in attempt to educate GAO (Kelly) on the capability of CEFMS, degree of detail that is available, and try to show him that he has been provided sufficient information to prepare for any meeting that might be upcoming. We cannot afford more than two days given where we are with fiscal year end and preparation for the FY 99 CFO statements.

c. We have scheduled a VTC on Tuesday 24 August with the Professional Development Support Center (PDSC), formerly the Huntsville Training Center, to review the final UFC Operating Procedure implementing acceptance of government credit cards in payment for training cost. The UFC has been aggressively working this issue with the PDSC Director in an effort to reduce delinquent accounts receivable.

d. We are developing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for implementing the U.S. Treasury On-Line Payment and Collection (OPAC) System functionality just deployed in CEFMS. We will be requesting the HQUSACE Finance and Accounting Policy Division to develop and publish USACE policy requiring mandatory use of OPAC for payment of all government orders between USACE activities. The mandatory use of OPAC will help us reduce the number of U.S. Treasury checks issued thereby gaining some efficiency in our operation.

e. Our physical relocation of the USACE Finance Center (UFC) to the permanent location, Building 787 on the Mid-South Naval Support Activity, was a resounding success. The UFC moving coordinators and administrative personnel worked long hours throughout the past weekend assisting contract movers with boxes and furniture and setting up their new offices. The workforce is very impressed with the quality and amenities of the new building.

While the physical move went smoothly, we did experience connectivity problems, access to the CEAP Network, which hampered our business operations due to changes in administrative procedures under the FTS 2000 contract. After exhaustive attempts to resolve this issue with CEIM and MCI, the service provider, we were finally connected to the CEAP network on Wednesday 18 August 1999. Many of our team members have agreed to work this Saturday, 21 August 1999 to reduce the backlog that

accumulated during this "down time".

An updated UFC Phone Directory and fax number listing will be posted on our web page by Monday, 23 Aug 99. Our physical address which is required for delivery of "over" night mail by carrier other than the U.S. Postal Service is:

USACE Finance Center
5700 Wasp Avenue
Millington, TN 38054